International QL Report

INAUGURAL ISSUE

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the "INTERNATIONAL QL REPORT". After consultation with many QL users worldwide, we are proud to present you with a NEW type of NEWSLETTER. One that will endeavor to inform you of the many NEW and EXCITING developments in the QL WORLD as they occur, without the normal four to six month time lag, that it normally takes news to get into print.

We will bring you honest reviews of NEW QL PRODUCTS. Whenever we review a product, we will also provide the NAME, ADDRESS, and PHONE NUMBER of a QL user, who has volunteered their HANDS-ON experience with the product. This innovation we believe, will help you make an educated decision on whether the product will meet your needs.

Inside this issue you will find NEW and EXCITING products, rumors about future developments, and QL news items. We want to hear from you, we NEED your input. What hardware and software you like. What do you dislike?? What improvements can you suggest?? Our primary goal is to bring QL users together, and expand their use of our great machines.

MIRACLE GOLD CARD

Miracle Systems of the U.K. have announced and delivered the first shipments of their new SUPER interface. The GOLD CARD fits entirely within the QL's expansion port and uses CMOS technology throughout, resulting in very low heat generation.

The MEAT of the GOLD CARD is a 16 megahertz 16 bit 68000 processor which accesses its own 16 bit zero wait state RAM. Miracle claims between 3 to 4 times the speed of a QL without the GOLD CARD.

The GOLD CARD contains a real time clock with battery, and 2 MEGS of memory, as well as a disk drive interface and Toolkit II. The GOLD CARD can access up to 3 drives of any combination (720K -1.44 Mbyte - 3.2 Mbyte)

A GOLD CARD has been received by:

> Rob Martin
> 508 N.W. 35 Terrace
> Gainesville, FL 32607
> Tel: 904 371 2333

Rob reported that the GOLD CARD is everything he had hoped for. And while he is still testing his new acquisition, he has reported that his QL with GOLD CARD and Conqueror ver. 1.16 ran "QUICKEN" a PC financial program, faster than his AMSTRAD PC. Rob would like to establish contact with QL users who use their machines for business applications.

The cost of the GOLD CARD is 330 Pounds Sterling delivered outside the U.K., Miracle is OFFERING TRADE-IN allowances on TRUMP CARDS, EXPANDERAMS, and DISK CARDS.

QL KEYBOARD 90 INTERFACE

Juergen Falkenberg of COMPUTER TECHNIK has launched, and is delivering his new KEYBOARD INTERFACE. We believe it to be the BEST ever designed for the QL.

They offer two versions, the FIRST fits internally inside the QL. You remove the 8049 chip from its socket, fit the interface board to the empty socket, then replace the 8049 in the new socket, the cable is then fed out the QL's expansion slot.

The SECOND version is external, you must still remove the 8049 chip, but connect a new socket with ribbon cable to the empty socket, then place the 8049 into the new socket. The ribbon cable is then fed out over the ROM slot of the QL where it connects to a small black box containing the interface.

The greatest advantage of the KEYBOARD 90 INTERFACE, in addition to the feel of a regular keyboard, is that you can connect ANY PC style keyboard to the QL. If the keyboard becomes worn out, it can be easily replaced with a wide selection of available keyboards. I know of a variety of keyboards being used with this interface (PC/XT - PC/AT) (84 keys thru 102 keys).

At least a dozen of these interfaces have been delivered to North America. Two proud owners and points of contact are:

Roy Arsenault   Bob Dyl
229 Beaver Meadow Rd.   15 Kilburn Ct.
Haddem, CT 06438   Newport, RI 02840
Tel: 203 345 8384   Tel: 401 849 3805

The cost for the KEYBOARD 90 INTERFACE is 169 DM for the internal version, and 191 DM for the external model. Please note that included in the price is a 30 DM postage & handling fee. If you group orders, you pay the handling fee only once, not for each item. This REPORT was produced using the KEYBOARD 90 INTERFACE and a Chicony 101 key keyboard. ($45.)

RUMORS !!   RUMORS !!

Rumors are flying wildly in the U.K., It has been said that QUANTA is in negotiations with REBEL ELECTRONICS to take over the REBEL HARD DISK INTERFACE design. It has been suggested that it would be offered as a kit, and as a fully assembled version.

Rumor also has it that MIRACLE SYSTEMS, the folks that brought us the TRUMP CARD and the new GOLD CARD, are secretly working on a GRAPHICS CARD for the QL.

QL ADVANCEMENT WORKING GROUP

A new International QL Group is forming headquartered in the U.K.,the name of this group is QLAW. It is the brainchild of Dr. Sohail S. Bhatti. DR. Bhatti is a well respected member of the QL community, and a frequent contributor to QUANTA and its famous LIBRARY.

Dr. Bhatti explains that he has tried without success, to convince the QUANTA committee, to spend some of its wealth in self-preservation: to coordinate and underwrite a mega-superQL project.

The goal of QLAW is to create a superQL, in a form that will appeal to a majority of current users, be relatively cheap, support hardware suitable for the 90's, be expandable, and run all current QL software while avoiding Amstrads copyright restrictions (the Minerva ROM already meets the last aim).

As a means of achieving the above stated goals, the group will pool the skills and resources of its members. In order to raise the capital necessary for such development it will levy a (voluntary) subscription fee. There are presently many designs, hardware prototypes, and software packages, that are lying undeveloped or incomplete. QLAW would seek to locate, complete, evaluate, and if appropriate, bring them to the marketplace. All OL users stand to benefit from this effort.

By producing an overall design strategy, QLAW would hope to set common goals and hardware standards that all software and peripheral devices could be developed to. Dr. Bhatti states,there is already wide support both within QUANTA and among current suppliers.

Those of us who DO NOT want to see QDOS die, now have a vehicle and opportunity to support future development of the QL. The subscription fee is 10 Pounds Sterling, or the equivalent (at current exchange rates the cost would be $ 17.50. Enclosed is a copy of the QLAW questionnaire, even if you decide not to join, please fill in the questionnaire and mail it to QLAW.

MINERVA ROM UPGRADE

QVIEW has announced the latest version of its popular ROM upgrade. Version 1.89 represents a significant advancement over earlier versions, it now incorporates a REALTIME CLOCK with buffer, and a I2C BUS INTERFACE to reach the outside world. The new price is 65 Pounds Sterling, with a 5 Pound discount for QUANTA members.

QVIEW has also stated that TF SERVICES in the U.K. will now handle SALES, SERVICE, and INQUIRES for the MINERVA ROM, allowing QVIEW to concentrate on future development. A number of 1.89's have been ordered in North America. We hope to bring you a HANDS-ON review in the next issue.

INTERGROUP FREEWARE EXCHANGE

The INTERGROUP FREEWARE EXCHANGE, serviced by the SINCLAIR QL USER
CLUB e.v. (SQLUC) of Germany, have announced the establishment of the library.
Membership is open to QL USER GROUPS worldwide. A fee of 15 DM (on average) is
required, plus the groups freeware for addition to the FREEWARE LIBRARY. For more
information contact:

> SINCLAIR QL USER CLUB e.v. 1 Foreign Contact Section
> Franz Herrmann
> Talstrasse 21
> W-5460 Ockenfels, Germany

We have been informed that the FREEWARE LIBRARY now exceeds 38 megabytes on
160 disks.

ORDERING FROM OVERSEAS

A few methods learned over the years, help make ordering hardware and software from
overseas fairly simple. FIRST of all, the MAJOR suppliers in the U.K. accept CREDIT
CARDS. SECOND, those that don't, including the GERMAN and ITALIAN suppliers
require payment in their currency.

There are many ways of paying in the required foreign currency, we will list a few:

Members of AAA can buy Traveler's Checks from an AAA office for about 1 cent
above the exchange rate.

You can purchase Traveler's Checks from most banks in almost any currency. You
use them just like personel checks.

You can purchase a Bank Draft in the currency you require. This is the most
expensive method. The cost for a Bank Draft ranges between $ 10 to $ 20 depending on
the bank.

Our preferred method is to buy the currency from a Commercial Bank, then send
the currency by AIRMAIL, using a new postal service called RECORDED DELIVERY
with a return card showing delivery overseas, signed by someone at the company. The cost
for this service has averaged about $ 3.95. We have never lost a dime using this method,
but at the same time its necessary to say that we have always known the people we were
buying from.

QL SURVIVOR'S SOURCE BOOK

The "QL SURVIVOR'S SOURCE BOOK" is a project of the SeaCoast QL User Group. It
lists sources in the following four catagories: all the known QL HARDWARE
SUPPLIERS, QL PUBLICATIONS (major), QL SOFTWARE SUPPLIERS, and QL
USER GROUPS worldwide. Under each company/individual a number of their products
are listed.

The SOURCE BOOK is available in AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, ITALY, and the UNITED KINGDOM. In NORTH AMERICA it is available from UPDATE MAGAZINE - P.O. Box 1095 - Peru, IN 46970. The cost in North America is $ 5.00 plus $2.00 shipping (rest of world slightly more).

NEW SOFTWARE

We have received a number of NEW SOFTWARE packages. In future issues we will bring you HANDS-ON reviews.

COWO ELECTRONICS - Switzerland
QTOP FRONT END, available in English and German.

DIGITAL PRECISION - United Kingdom
PERFECTION, super wordprocessor available in English.

DILWYN JONES COMPUTING - United Kingdom
VISION MIXER PLUS
PICTUREMASTER
QL QUICK POSTERS
SUPER DISK LABELLER   all available in English

JOCHEN MERZ SOFTWARE - Germany
QDESIGN, available in English and German

CONVERSATION WITH JOCHEN MERZ

In a recent conversation with JOCHEN MERZ of Germany, he extolled the virtues of a NEW program named "QDESIGN". He stated that QDESIGN handles screens up to 2880 x 2880 pixels in two or four colors (dependent on memory size). Screens from the Atari ST, Professional Publisher, Page Designer 2, and Art + may be loaded into QDESIGN.

There is a preview option of the entire page with three zoom sizes, and for the first time on the QL, VECTORFONTS that may be modified in more than "1 billion ways". QDESIGN has been tested on all available ROM versions including Minerva. As it runs under the WINDOW MANAGER, it is QIMI Mouse compatible.

We expect to receive QDESIGN soon, and hope to bring you a review in our next issue. The cost for QDESIGN is 118 DM and is available NOW.

Jochen also announced, the improved QIMI Mouse Interface with RealTime Clock, and a second version without the RealTime Clock. The improvment lies in the shorter pins on the new QIMI, allowing it to seat properly to the QL motherboard.

The reason for two versions is that the NEW GOLD CARD and the NEW MINERVA already contain RT Clocks and you only need ONE clock. The cost of the QIMI with RT Clock is: 118 DM, the cost of the QIMI without RT Clock is: 101 DM.

Note: Jochen Merz will accept American Express Travelers Checks in Dollars at the conversion rate of 1.5 DM = $1.00 plus $2.00 for postage.

REPORT FROM JUERGEN FALKENBERG

Juergen Falkenberg of COMPUTER TECHNIK reports, that he is now shipping improved versions of his QL SCANNER. He states, that they have developed an extremely powerful color scanner, for high resolution digitizing of pictures with the Sinclair QL. A minimum of 256K memory expansion is required.

QL SCANNERS are available for the following printers:

Citizen 120	Star Delta 10, SG 10
Epson MX, RX, FX, LX, LQ	Centronics GLP, GLP II
Brother M 1009/1109	Memotech DMX 80
Panasonic KX-P 1080, KX-P 1124	Star LC-10
Mannesmann MT 80	Shinwa CP 80
Star NL 10, NG 10	Amstrad DMP 2000/3000
Seikosha 5P 800/1000	Sinclair QL Printer

The Cost for the QL SCANNER is: 370 DM including postage and handling.

D-I-Y TOOLKIT

Richard Alexander of C.G.H. Services (U.K.) reports that Simon N. Goodwin, the author of the popular QL WORLD DIY column, has designated C.G.H. Services, as the official distributor of his D-I-Y TOOLKIT. It is sold and supplied in 14 different modules. Write to C.G.H. Services for a concise listing of the different modules.

DIY Toolkit is a range of software accessories for the QL or Thor, first seen in the DIY column of QL World. Some of the module headings are:

BASIC TOOLS	CHANNELS
DISK TOOLS	ERROR CONTROL
FILE TOOLS	GRAPHICS
MULTIBASIC	NETWORKING
PIPES & PARAMETERS	QUEUES & QDOS

All modules include well written user, system, and technical notes in a QUILL_DOC format, SuperBASIC and compiled demos, assembler source and object code, testers and more.

HELP !! HELP !!

In the near future, we hope to be able to offer our readers the best in PUBLIC DOMAIN software from around the world. To this end, we need" TRANSLATORS" to translate into English, software in the following languages : FRENCH, GERMAN, and ITALIAN. We currently have over 50 disks in these languages waiting to be translated. CAN YOU HELP ???

Do you write your own software ??? Would you like to share what you' ve written with other QL users ??? SEND "IQLR" your PUBLIC DOMAIN software and we'll happily add it to our growing library.

We can handle both 5. 25" QUAD DENSITY and 3.5" DISKS, as well as MICRODRIVE CARTRIDGES. When the library is ready, it will be offered in all three formats.

DIRECTORY DEVICE
ADAPTED FROM: QL TECHNICAL REVIEW (C.G.H. SERVICES)

Directory-devices are all devices which allow the storing of data with a name (for instance: MDV, FLP, RAM, WIN, FDK...). Many programs, even pointer driven ones, don't know which devices are connected to the QL. When using a pointer driven program it's nice to select also the device with a mouse, so I wrote a small routine which will find all devices. This little program could be integrated in all programs, and it also works with Minerva.

Here's my little program:

```
100 REMark 163840 is HEX("28000")
110 sysvar=163840
120 REMark if ID <>- HEX("D254") then the system variables are at
130 REMark HEX("30000"), for MINERVA
140 IF PEEK_W(sysvar)<>-11692 THEN sysvar=196608
150 REMark Pointer to linked list of directory device driver
160 ad=PEEK_L(sysvar+72)
170 REMark repeat until all drivers will be found
180 REPeat loop
190     REMark pointer to length of device name
200     ad1=ad+36
210     REMark length
220     laen=PEEK_W(ad1)
230     REMark print all characters of name
240     FOR i=2 TO laen+1
250         PRINT CHR$(PEEK(ad1+i));
260     END FOR i
270     PRINT
280     REMark next entry in linked list
290     ad=PEEK_L(ad)
300     REMark IF pointer+0 THEN END of list
310     IF ad+0 THEN EXIT loop
320 END REPeat loop
```

AUTHOR: Ralf Biedermann

SUBSCRIPTIONS / ADVERTISMENTS

Subscription rates are: $ 10.00 per year (U.S FUNDS) for the U.S. and Canada. The rest of the world: $ 20.00 per year (U.S. FUNDS). Single issue rates are $ 3.00 U.S. and Canada $ 5.00 rest of the world (U.S. FUNDS).

We will publish 4 to 6 issues per year, dependent on the amount of material available. We need your HELP to be able to publish 6 issues.

ADVERTISING RATES: $25.00 per HALF PAGE per issue.
$50.00 per FULL PAGE per issue.

SPECIAL !!! Purchase advertising for two issues at the stated price, and we will run your ad in a third issue "FREE".

WE ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE and HARDWARE for REVIEW. SUPPLIERS CAN DEPEND ON AN HONEST EVALUATION and REVIEW.

PRODUCT SOURCE

MIRACLE Gold Card -	MIRACLE SYSTEMS LTD. 25 Broughton Way Osbaldwich, York Y01 3BG U.K. Tel: 0904 423986
QL Keyboard 90 - QL Scanner	COMPUTER TECHNIK Thanweg 36 W-7539 Ersinger Germany Tel: 07231 81058
Minerva 1.89 -	TF SERVICES 12 Bouverie Place London W2 1RB U.K. Tel: 071 724 9053
QIMI Mouse - Interface & QDESIGN	JOCHEN MERZ SOFTWARE Im Stillen Winkel 12 W-4100 Duisburg 11 Germany Tel : 0203 501 274
D-I-Y Toolkit -	C.G.H. Services Cwm Gwen Hall Pencader, Dyfed, Cymru SA39 9HA U.K. Tel: 0559 384 574

ANSWER BY FILLING IN THE BLOCKS: Read the Notes. Please answer all the questions afterwards

[] Male   [] Female   Age: ....

1.Education: []   []   []   []   []   []   *for Scotland H Grade = A level*
(HIGHEST ATTAINED) O Levels A Levels College Polytech University Other.....................

2.Occupation: Teaching []   Managerial []   Divinity []   []
(*Fill in 2*   Professional []   Scientific/Tech []   Student []   other/job?
if retired)   Skilled Manual []   Computing []   Medical []   ....
            Retired []   Manual []   Arts []   ....

3.Gross Income: []   []   []   []   []   []
(1K = 1,000)   <£5000   £5-10K   £10-20K   £20-30K   £30K+   Not telling

4.Marital Status: Married []   Single []   Widowed []   Divorced []

5.Years with QL: []   []   []   []   []   []   []
            <1   1-2   2-3   3-4   4-5   5-6   6+

6.How many working QLs do you have? []   [] ....   [] ....   [] ....   [] ....
(put ROMS beside box for each QL)   0   1   2   3   4+ ....

7.Which of the following peripherals do you have?

	How Many?		Want it? Yes!
Internal Memory	[]	HOW MANY K.......... MANUFACTURER............................	[]
External Memory	[]	HOW MANY K.......... MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Printer	[]	WHICH MODEL (MAIN ONE)............................	[]
Disk Interface	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Trump Card	[]	HOW MANY K.......... DRIVE CAPACITY?............................	[]
Disk + Memory Interface	[]	HOW MANY K.......... MAKE + MODEL............................	[]
Hard Disk Interface	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Keyboard	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
System Box/Cabinet	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Disk Drives [3.5"]	[]	CAPACITY................K MANUFACTURER/MODEL............	[]
[5.25"]	[]	....	[]
Monitor	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Digitiser/Scanner	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
EPROM Programmer	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Modem	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Centronics Interface	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Mouse	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
CAPS lock LED	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]
Backplane	[]	MANUFACTURER............................	[]

Others (please specify) ....

8.How many other *local* QL users do you know?   [] 0   [] 1-5   [] 6-15   [] 16+

Notes: 1.A Levels=pre-higher education. If studying for a Degree etc., tick box for appropriate establishment & put
course under 'other' 2.Give the title of the job as well, using the 'other/what space.' If retired then tick
RETIRED box and also the box which most closely represents the major occupation of your life 6.ROM name is obtained
by typing PRINT VER$ (or written on Minerva ROM). Fill the appropriate box and then for each QL put the ROM on dotted
lines 7.Gold card owners should fill in 'Disk+Memory Interface', giving 2Mb as capacity. Trump card drive capacity is
number of drives supported Give as many details as you can about any machines or peripherals you use e.g. RAM, hard
disk, make, etc., 13.Whether the option exists or not give your opinion on your most desirable one 18.The Quill refers
to the program from Gilsoft NOT the word-processor. Use the current exchange rate to calculate £ equivalents. Filling
in this questionnaire and returning it implies consent to it being computerised. (c) QLAW, 1991 Version QR2

QLAW - HELPING QL USERS HELP THE QL GROW

9.Do you have another QL-specific machine? No: []
If so what make and model?　　　　　　　　　[]　　　　　　[]　　　　　　[]

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Amiga　　　AtariST　　Thor

(how much RAM etc.,)...

10.Do you use any other computer?　No: []　Yes:

PC (IBM compat) []	Dragon []	Spectrum []	CPC []
ST []	Tandy []	C64 []	MSX []
Amiga []	PCW []	MSX []	Console (any) []
BBC []	Archimedes []	Macintosh []	Other (what?) [] _____

SPECIFY DETAILS (DISKS etc.,)..

11.What is your use of the QL? 0=nil;1=rarely;2=occasionally;3=regularly;4=frequently;5=always

Word-processing	....	Basic Language	....
Machine Code	....	Computer Languages	....
Databases	....	Graphic Design	....
Educational	....	Games	....
Adventures	....	Program Development	....
Desk Top Publishing	....	Business	....
Hardware Design	....	Other (WHAT?)	....

12.How many hours a week did you spend with your QL in the last typical week?

| [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | Hrs with non-QL |
| <1 | 1-2 | 2-4 | 4-7 | 8-14 | 15-28 | 29+ | .... |

13.When available, which do you most wish? 0=no;1=perhaps;2=useful;3=great;4=love it

ANY DISK DRIVE	1.4Mb DISK DRIVE	20Mb DISK DRIVE	PLUG IN PC ......
HARD DISK DRIVE	512K MEMORY EXPANSION	GOLD CARD	USE PC PERIPHERALS ....
BETTER KEYBOARD	BETTER DISPLAY RESOLUTION	BETTER SOUND	QL ON A PC ......
BETTER PRINTER	CABINET/CASE	MONITOR	MOUSE ......

14.What is your main interest in the QL? (fill two only)

[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Word processing	SuperBasic	Machine Code	Languages	Databases	Graphics	Educational	Games
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Adventures	Prog Develpt	DTP	Business	Hardware	Simulations	Spreadsheets	Other: ....

15.Which is the machine you most want to buy?　　　　　　　　　MegaSTE []

| Archimedes 3000 [] | 386 PC [] | "SuperQL" [] | AtariTT [] |
| Macintosh Classic [] | Thor [] | Amiga 3000 [] | Amiga 1500 [] |

16.How much money (total) have you spent on buying software for the QL?

[] <£100　　　[] £100-500　　　[] £500-1000　　　[] £1-2000　　　[] £2K+

17.Have you received a QLAW questionnaire from another source?　　　yes/ no where?...........

18.How well do you know: ? 0=ignorant of;1=passing acquaintance;2=understand;3=proficient;4=expert

Perfection	......	Text87	......	Editor	......	Spy	......
QD	......	C	......	Forth	......	Pascal	......
Fortran	......	SuperBasic	......	BCPL	......	CPM	......
QLiberator	......	Turbo	......	Archive	......	Abacus	......
Easel	......	QPAC	......	Toolkit2	......	Flashback	......
DataDesign	......	ICE	......	PageDesigner2	......	ProPublisher	......
Assembler	......	Conqueror	......	Solution	......	QMON	......
GraphQL	......	TechniQL	......	3DPrec	......	EyeQ	......
Painter	......	QRAM	......	ACT	......	The Quill	......
QDOS	......	MSDOS	......	Hardwre Design	......	Cash Trader	......

19.Do you wish to help develop the QL, and join QLAW?

not interested []　　*Yes* (sorry, no money) []　　*Yes!* (£10 cheque to *QLAW* enclosed) []

NAME+ADDRESS:..

.... POST CODE:.............................

POST THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO **QLAW, 4 WASDALE AVE, BLACKBURN, ENGLAND, BB1 1XD**

"IQLR" SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Mail your check/money order/cash to: "IQLR"
15 Kilburn Court
Newport, RI 02840
U.S.A.

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY/TOWN: _____STATE:_____

COUNTRY: _____POSTAL CODE:_____

Would you please answer the following questions:

Where did you hear of IQLR?_____

How many QL's do you own?_____

How many are in use? _____

What do you use your QL for? _____

How many people use your QL ?_____

List what you consider to be
your most important hardware
additions.   _____

                                        _____

                                        _____

List the software you use
most frequently.   _____

                                        _____

                                        _____

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION."

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